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# Third Committee

**Summary record of the 16th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 13 October 2011, at 3 p.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Haniff ..... (Malaysia)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Agenda item 27: Social development** (*continued*)

**(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family** (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.6 and L.14)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.6: Tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers*

1. **Mr. Quintaes** (Brazil), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.6 also on behalf of Japan, said that he hoped that all Member States would join in the effort to promote volunteerism, which was playing an increasingly important role worldwide, as a means of combating discrimination, addressing humanitarian crises and building a more peaceful environment for all.

2. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Finland, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama and Peru had joined the sponsors.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.14: Brain Education as a tool for implementing the Millennium Development Goals and contributing to global peace and development*

3. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.14, said that education must be approached in a holistic manner, as it was indispensable for the achievement of sustainable development and international peace. Taking into account the responsibility of States to promote a culture of peace, his delegation had decided to sponsor the draft resolution, which alluded to his country's successful use of Brain Education, a holistic type of education that raised awareness about the great potential of the human brain and its natural desire to solve the world's problems.

4. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Panama had joined the sponsors.

**Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.15 and L.17)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.15: Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity*

5. **Mr. Mogini** (Italy), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.15 on behalf of sponsors Albania, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, said that important new issues had been addressed in the draft resolution, including trafficking in cultural property, juvenile delinquency and the achievements of recent General Assembly sessions, such as the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. As in previous sessions, the sponsors were counting on the widest possible support from Member States.

6. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Benin, Finland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Panama, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia and Slovenia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.17: United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders*

7. **Ms. Kafeero** (Uganda), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.17 on behalf of the African Group, said that the text updated General Assembly resolution 65/231 on the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). The African Group continued to maintain that the justification for the establishment of UNAFRI was the need to address the spectre of crime and delinquency in Africa and prevent them from subverting development gains. The Group was ready to engage in constructive discussions on the text and hoped that the draft resolution would, as in previous years, be adopted by consensus.

**Agenda item 108: International drug control** (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.16)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.16: International cooperation against the world drug problem*

8. **Mr. Arrocha** (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.16, said that Albania, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Norway, Ukraine and Uruguay had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution aimed to maintain the international community's commitment to combating the world drug problem, and the text had been updated and enriched with direct references to discussions and thematic resolutions from the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in March 2011. Noting the

increased influence of criminal organizations involved in illicit drug trafficking around the world, he stressed the importance of not only recognizing the link between drug trafficking and weapons trafficking but also of strengthening measures and mechanisms aimed at combating both phenomena in an integrated manner.

9. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Haiti, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Panama, Paraguay and Peru had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

**Agenda item 27: Social development** (*continued*)

**(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family** (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.9)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.9: Cooperatives in social development*

10. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.9.

11. **Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia) said that, since the introduction of the draft resolution, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, St. Lucia, Spain, Slovenia, Thailand and the United States of America had become sponsors.

12. A number of changes had been made as a result of constructive informal consultations and bilateral meetings with Member States. In the second preambular paragraph, in the fourth line, the word "major" was replaced with the word "significant". In paragraph 4, the phrase "and international organizations, in partnership with cooperatives and cooperative organizations" was inserted after the word "Governments". In paragraph 8, the phrase "while promoting gender equality and empowerment of women" was inserted after the word "members". She called for the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus, as in previous years.

13. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Paraguay, the Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Slovakia, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.9, as amended, was adopted.*

**Agenda items 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (*continued*) **and 108: International drug control** (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.2 and L.3)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.2: Strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities*

15. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.2, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

16. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that the adoption of paragraph 11 would entail extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $186,500 to develop a new data collection instrument. The level of resource requirements would provide for consultations with regional and international organizations in the development of a new questionnaire, as well as 10 work-months of temporary assistance at the P-3 level to update the data collection system and to process and disseminate the additional information, and the editing and translation of new questions to be attached to the existing questionnaire. With regard to paragraphs 12 and 13, the implementation of the Global Programme against Money-Laundering was reliant on the provision of extrabudgetary resources.

17. With regard to the requests contained in paragraph 14, there was currently no dedicated research capacity at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). A request for the Office to undertake more systematic research on the financial dimension of transnational organized crime would require the establishment of a research officer post in Vienna at the P-3 level. The provision of $162,900 per year in additional extrabudgetary resources was proposed to cover that requirement.

18. Additional extrabudgetary funding was also required to strengthen the Global Programme against Money-Laundering in line with the 11 recommendations made by the Independent Evaluation Unit in its review of the Programme. An estimated $1.5 million in additional funding would be required for both field and essential headquarters operations. Should the additional extrabudgetary resources not be provided, the activities would not take place.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.2 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.3: Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism*

20. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.3, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

21. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that the adoption of paragraphs 1 through 8 of the draft resolution would require additional extrabudgetary resources for the provision of technical assistance in implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism. Voluntary contributions in the amount of $7 million had been received for activities related to the Terrorism Prevention Branch. The level of extrabudgetary requirements for 2011 needed to include the Branch's expanded regional and country programmes based on increased requests from Member States. Hence, the full implementation of the activities set out in paragraphs 1 through 8 would be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources. A relatively small element of the activities would be carried out drawing on the regular budget allocations suggested in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. As concerned the provisions contained in paragraphs 1 and 11, the resource requirements for the biennium 2012-2013 had been presented in the context of established budgetary procedures. The adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.3 would therefore not entail any additional appropriations under the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.3 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice** (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.4 and L.5)

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.4: Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*

23. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.4, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

24. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.4 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.5: Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking*

25. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.5, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

26. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that adoption of paragraphs 3 and 8 would require $244,400 in additional extrabudgetary resources in order to convene one intergovernmental expert group meeting in Vienna, meeting for a total of 10 meetings with interpretation services in the six official languages of the United Nations. The level of resource requirements would include the production of a report on the recommendations of the working group and consultancy services. With regard to paragraph 9 (a), $335,000 in additional extrabudgetary resources would be required for the development of specific guidelines for crime prevention with respect to trafficking in cultural property, and would provide for consultancy services, an expert group meeting in Vienna with 20 experts over three days with no interpretation services. The documentation requirements would include the recommendations of the expert groups. Additional extrabudgetary resources would also be required to undertake the feasibility study on the collection of data on trafficking in cultural property requested in paragraph 9 (b). The activities would not take place if the additional extrabudgetary resources were not provided.

27. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.5 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 65: Promotion and protection of the rights of children** (*continued*)

**(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children** (*continued*) (A/66/41, A/66/227, A/66/228, A/66/230, A/66/256 and A/66/257)

**(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children** (*continued*) (A/66/258)

28. **Ms. Medal** (Nicaragua) said that her country was implementing a National Human Development Plan, which established strategies and actions to develop human capabilities, restore rights, and eliminate social exclusions and inequities. Youth and adolescence were being given priority, since half the population was under 18.

29. The "Programa Amor" programmes were directed toward restoration of the rights of the child to live in normal family conditions and without risks outside the home; establishment and licensing of 55 child development centres for care of children of working mothers; birth registration for all children; the right to specialized attention for children and adolescents with disabilities; and care of children in 559 community childcare centres and 587 community health centres.

30. The Ministry of Education had adopted education policies designed to provide more and better education through an improved curriculum. The goal was for primary education to become universal by 2012 and basic secondary education by 2015.

31. The quality of health-care services, which were free, had been improved and services had been expanded. Infant and maternal mortality had been decreased by 15.7 per cent from 2006 to 2010 and child malnutrition from 21.4 per cent in 2003 to 19.6 per cent in 2009. In 2010 the Comprehensive School Nutrition Programme provided food to a million children between the ages of 6 and 12.

32. The Government was implementing a plan to eliminate child labour and protect working adolescents. The Roadmap for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour for the elimination of child labour by the year 2020 was in the final stages of development.

33. The Penal Code approved in 2007 penalized all forms of violence, punishment, and abuse of children and adolescents. Article 100 of the 2006 General Education Law specified that students had the right to be treated fairly, with respect, and without punishment.

34. The Office of the Attorney General for the Defence of Human Rights, acting through the Special Representative for Childhood and Adolescence, sponsored the establishment of the Group for the Sponsorship of Proper Treatment of Childhood and Adolescence, composed of various government institutions, international cooperation agencies, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

35. **Ms. Man** Anting (China) said that the 2011 evaluation of the implementation of the Outline Programme for the Development of Chinese Children 2001-2010 concluded that the goals and objectives of the Outline had been largely achieved. Mortality rates for infants and for children under five had dropped from 32.2 per thousand and 39.7 per thousand in 2000 to 13.1 per thousand and 16.4 per thousand, respectively; the inoculation rate of vaccines covered by the national vaccination plan had exceeded 90 per cent. The gross kindergarten enrolment rate had risen from 35 per cent in 2000 to 56.6 per cent; the net primary-school enrolment rate had reached 99.7 per cent, and gross enrolment rates for junior high and high school were 100.1 per cent and 82.5 per cent, respectively.

36. The Outline for the Development of Chinese Children 2011-2020, issued in August 2011, contained a series of general goals, including improvement of the primary health-care system for children, greater equity in access to the primary public education, and establishment and improvement of a children's welfare system. Mortality rates for infants and children under five were to be kept under 10 per thousand and 13 per thousand, respectively; the inoculation rate of vaccines included in the national vaccination plan was to reach 95 per cent; coverage of nine-year compulsory education was to be consolidated at 95 per cent; high-school education was to be made universal and reach 90 per cent of the gross enrolment rate; and centres to provide services for children were to be built in over 90 per cent of urban and rural communities.

37. China was party to various international treaties for protection of the rights of the child and was fulfilling its treaty obligations. It had been involved in the drafting of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

38. **Ms. Razzouk** (United States of America) said that in the past decade her country had implemented national reforms to address problems of children's access to education, health care and nutrition, and to protect children from violence, abuse, and exploitation. Federal, state, and local programmes existed to protect children from child pornography, commercial sexual exploitation and forced labour, and to promote access to health care, foster care, and education.

39. The 2009 Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act provided funding to strengthen programmes and expand coverage, to some 11 million children. In line with the theme of children with disabilities, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) required public schools to make free and appropriate public education available to all eligible children. The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Education (TEACH) Grant Program helped fund the education of persons pursuing degrees in special-needs education. The United States hoped to continue working closely with the international community to strengthen the protection of all children.

40. **Ms. Mørch Smith** (Norway) said that children with disabilities had been entitled to mainstream primary education in Norway since 1975. Attendance at primary school through grade ten was compulsory, and all persons had a right to higher secondary education. Norway had closed residential institutions for persons with disabilities in 1991, in the belief that persons with disabilities should be mainstreamed into all aspects of life.

41. The Special Representative had noted in her report that 80 per cent of children with disabilities lived in developing countries, where primary education coverage tended to be insufficient. Unless Government policies and international development cooperation included those children in their plans, there would be another generation of persons with disabilities who would remain excluded from society. Tackling violence against children in schools, especially children with disabilities who were more vulnerable, was also an urgent issue, and in June 2011 Norway had hosted a High-Level Expert Meeting on "Tackling violence in schools", including violence against children with disabilities.

42. **Ms. Fahmy** (Egypt) said that Egypt was among the countries that had supported the United Nations Study on Violence against Children and had contributed to deepening the culture of opposition to violence in the Arab World by hosting three regional meetings in Cairo and funding the dissemination of an Arabic version of the study.

43. Egypt condemned involvement of children as combatants or victims in armed conflicts, and believed that violations should be criminalized and the perpetrators prosecuted. It also believed that access to education and health care was a basic right of every child, and that access to both, in a safe and secure environment, must be guaranteed. Egypt also rejected any attacks directed against schools and hospitals.

44. In the past two decades, Egypt had been developing a comprehensive protective legislative framework covering education of girls, health (including child mortality and female genital mutilation) and child protection, and focused on children with disabilities, rural children, and children at risk. The country still lacked a comprehensive database on the magnitude of the problems, and faced challenges related to national development programs.

45. Priorities for the immediate future included developing and improving educational curricula and textbooks, combating the problem of school drop-outs and all forms of violence against children, and strengthening child helpline mechanisms to ensure better response to all forms of exploitation, discrimination, and violence.

46. **Ms. Ndhlovu** (Zambia) said that the outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children, held in 2002, constituted a useful guide to steps that needed to be taken in respect of children.

47. Zambia had a National Child Policy and a National Plan of Action, which constituted core guidelines. It had made progress toward establishment of a National Council for the Child, and the pertinent legislation would soon be considered by Parliament.

48. Measures had been taken for the prevention of violence against women and children, including the recent enactment of the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Act, which provided a mechanism for protecting children from violence, including via safe houses and victim rehabilitation facilities. The Zambia Police Service had two units for dealing with that issue.

49. The National Child Policy had been revised to incorporate issues of sexual and labour exploitation,

and the Penal Code had been amended to cover offences relating to child pornography, cultural practices harmful to children, strengthening of the penalty against defilement (defined as sex with a person under age 16) and stiffer penalties for child trafficking and child prostitution. An Anti-Human Trafficking Act had been enacted in 2008, and the Government had undertaken a comprehensive review of all child-related laws and policies to ensure that they guaranteed better protection.

50. Steps had been taken to reduce morbidity and mortality in children and to integrate HIV/AIDS education into the school curriculum. A National Policy on Disability had been developed and had been submitted to stakeholders for consultation. It included a mechanism for collecting disaggregated statistical data on children with disabilities, to enable the Government to develop targeted programmes. A special needs education programme for disabled children had been developed to mainstream them into the regular school systems.

51. **Mr. Ledergerber** (Switzerland) said his country supported the Human Rights Committee recommendation concerning adoption of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention, which could provide a communications procedure.

52. Switzerland recommended the use of telephone hotlines to assist children and parents, and the organization of parent training sessions to spread educational practices based on respect for the child, the rights of the child and the rejection of violence in all its forms. It condemned attacks targeting schools and hospitals.

53. **Ms. Heshiki** (Japan) said that the Government of Japan intended to make further efforts to strengthen and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols.

54. Steps taken toward achievement of the MDGs included financial commitments to support "EMBRACE", a .maternal and child health support model to provide a continuum of care from pregnancy to the post-natal period, and "School for All", a basic education support model designed to improve the overall learning environment.

55. In recent years, as part of its international cooperation for the protection of children, the Government had adopted the "Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons" and the "Comprehensive Measures to Eliminate Child Pornography". It had been taking steps, including amending of laws, to prevent, identify, and deal with child abuse in its early stages. In 2011 the Civil Code had been amended to introduce suspension of parents' rights in serious child-abuse cases and appointment of guardians.

56. **Ms. Arias** (Cuba) said that Cuba had been implementing policies, actions, and programmes in favour of children and adolescents since its revolution in 1959. Economic, political, and social transformations since then had facilitated eradication of structural injustices.

57. Cuba was spending more than 50 per cent of the State budget on health care, education, welfare, social security and culture with educational expenses accounting for 19.4 per cent of the country's total expenditures in 2011. There were 396 special schools for children with disabilities.

58. Mothers and children were given priority attention: primary health care and hospital infrastructure were being integrated, children were being vaccinated against 13 communicable diseases, and congenital diseases were being detected at an early stage. Purchase of medicines and equipment for children, however, was being impeded by the United States Government blockade. Cuban children continued to be innocent victims of that policy, which had been rejected by the international community for over half a century.

59. **Mr. Al-Awadhi** (Yemen) said that his country was among the first to accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols and was working to implement them by fulfilling its reporting obligations and enacting and revising domestic child protection laws. Institutional mechanisms established to implement those laws included a council on motherhood and childhood, a technical commission to combat child smuggling and a nationwide child protection network. His Government was also cooperating with international organizations to protect and advance the rights of children, as evinced by a number of successes attained despite its limited resources and difficult circumstances. Yemen had been declared a polio-free country in 2008 and conducted vaccination campaigns regularly. Moreover, a national strategy and plan of action against child trafficking had been put in place. His delegation reiterated its

commitment to promoting the rights of children, also stressing the necessity of redoubled international efforts to that end.

60. **Mr. Botbaev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that his Government had put in place laws to protect the fundamental rights of children of both genders to life, survival and growth, especially socially disadvantaged children, such as refugee children and orphans. Kyrgyzstan had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, and had since taken steps to incorporate their provisions into domestic legislation. Moreover, a social protection strategy specifically addressed the needs of families and children living in difficult circumstances.

61. His Government had enacted legislation to regulate the adoption of children who had been deprived of parental care, in addition to establishing a database to ensure their protection. An annual award was established to recognize projects in the area of child protection services. Intensive efforts were being made to improve and revise child protection legislation, which aimed to guarantee the rights of children to parental care and family love.

62. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the best interests of children were a fundamental policy consideration for her Government, given the importance it attached to caring for and protecting children in all areas of life. The Syrian Arab Republic had hosted the Special Olympics in 2010, as well as a forum for Arab youth to discuss the recommendations of the Second Arab Plan on Childhood (2004-2015). The youth forum had recommended that the protection of children living under foreign occupation should be added as an element of the plan, and that an Arab cooperation fund should be established to build the capacity of those children, in order to ensure that their welfare was central in discussions and reports presented by Arab states to the relevant international entities.

63. Locally, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour was working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to implement the national programme to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. Eradicating that phenomenon by the recently set target of 2016 would make Syria a model in that regard. The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had recently established a regional early child development centre in Damascus.

64. The situation of human rights, especially of children, in the occupied Syrian Golan remained a matter of grave concern. Children were not spared the rights violations committed by Israel, nor its desperate attempts to wipe out the Arab identity of the occupied people and replace it with its own using compulsory educational curricula. Israel had refused Syrian attempts to provide educational, health and social services to its occupied brethren through international humanitarian organizations, in addition to obstructing the work of international commissions sent to monitor the suffering of families in the region. The international community must persistently condemn and combat all criminal measures taken by the Israeli occupying forces, endeavour to detect and remove landmines and cluster bombs that killed innocent children in Palestine, Lebanon and the Syrian Golan, and end the blockade on the Gaza Strip, which had led to a sharp rise in the child death toll.

65. **Ms. De** (India), noting that 44 per cent of her country's population was under 18, said it had developed a National Charter for Children and a National Plan of Action for Children. Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 had been declared a fundamental right, and private schools received funding to reserve 25 per cent of their seats for children from economically disadvantaged sectors. An Integrated Child Development Services Scheme was focused on early childhood care and education. A National Commission for Protection of Children's Rights had been established in 2007 to provide for speedy trial of offenders who committed crimes against children and violated their rights. Furthermore, civil society was considered to be an active and integral part of the child protection framework.

66. Eradication of child labour was a priority for the Government, and employment of children under 14 was strictly prohibited. The holistic approach to the issue included measures to improve education, health care and nutrition for children.

67. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) had been launched in 2009 to create a safe environment for children needing care or protection, children in conflict with the law and any other vulnerable child. It included programmes for juvenile justice, street children and for assistance to homes to promote

in-country adoption. It aimed to provide better quality and more accessible child protection services, raise public awareness about child rights, articulate responsibilities and enforce accountability for child protection, and establish functioning governmental structures for delivery of services to children.

68. In 2009, 24 January had been designated "National Girl Child Day", and other initiatives had been taken to enhance the status of girl children, including policies banning sex-selective abortion and child marriage.

69. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) said that building a world fit for children would remain an elusive goal for developing countries without a proper balance between economic and development concerns and the support of industrialized nations. A party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, the Sudan had incorporated their provisions into the domestic legal framework, notably in a 2010 law on children and various child protection mechanisms established at the federal and state levels. Moreover, child protection units had been created in the police and the armed forces, the latter being tasked with preventing the recruitment of children into armed conflict within military institutions. His Government was also conducting popular education campaigns to sensitize communities, particularly rural ones, to the importance of such issues affecting children as nutrition, education, protection from violence and defence of the legal rights of the child. All child protection efforts were being made in constant cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies working in the Sudan, particularly the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Statistics showed a significant reduction in child mortality rates and acts of violence against children.

70. Despite considerable improvements in the situation of children in the areas of the Sudan covered by the relevant reports of the Secretary-General and of his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, the rebellion movements in Darfur, Kordofan and the Blue Nile regions continued to force minors to participate in military operations. For its part, his Government was committed to continued cooperation with all United Nations agencies to further ameliorate the situation of children in armed conflict.

71. His Government's participation in the ongoing negotiations on the Darfur conflict in Doha, Qatar, which had brought together all parties desiring peace, attested to the Sudan's commitment to resolving the conflict. The establishment of a transitional authority for Darfur heralded a new age of peace in the region, and a broad Darfur-Darfur dialogue would complement that effort. Normalization of relations with neighbouring Chad and military border operations conducted jointly by the two countries had had the greatest impact on improving the situation and protecting civilians, especially children. The developments in Libya further contributed to that process and benefited the children of Darfur.

72. Other instances of his Government's painstaking efforts to consolidate national and regional peace included the mooring of a peace ship in South Sudan to affirm the Sudan's full recognition of the fledgling State after decades of civil war, and the training of officials in South Sudan.

73. Noting with dismay the impact of foreign debt on the situation of children in the developing world, he called for debt cancellation for developing countries. He also expressed grave concern at the increase in attacks on the dignity and rights of children in occupied Arab territories and reiterated his delegation's support for the establishment of a sovereign State of Palestine with full United Nations membership, so as to ensure the full exercise of the rights of the child and of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

74. **Mr. Yahiaoui** (Algeria) noted that his country was party to the principal international instruments concerning promotion of the rights of the child, including the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and its protocol on trafficking in persons. Algeria would shortly be presenting its third and fourth periodic reports on implementation of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child.

75. Various draft laws included provisions to ensure better support and more effective protection of the rights of the child. The Government had adopted a National Family Strategy, a National Plan for Childhood, and a national strategy to combat violence against children, in collaboration with UNICEF. An amendment to the Algerian Nationality Code recognized transmission of Algerian nationality via the mother.

76. Algeria was working to combat child labour, exploitation of children for purposes of prostitution, trafficking, particularly of girls, and the use of computer equipment to disseminate child pornography.

The Penal Code prosecuted and punished abandonment, sexual acts and rape involving children, and exploitation of children in prostitution networks.

77. Infant mortality had been reduced from 34.7 per thousand in 2002 to 25.5 per thousand in 2010. The Government was continuing its efforts to further reduce those rates. Investment in infrastructure and implementation of various national vaccination, disease prevention and family planning programmes had improved health care.

78. Education was free and compulsory for all children up to the age of 16. Major infrastructure, human and budgetary resources were being devoted to education. School attendance rates stood at 97.96 per cent for the 2011-2012 academic year, a rate equivalent to that of some developed countries, an indication that the "Education for All" goal had been achieved. Other Government measures were being taken with respect to student transport, school cafeterias, subsidizing of textbooks, and a recent 50 per cent increase in the school attendance benefit paid to low-income families.

79. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus) said that effectively coordinating the mobilization of resources for children required a united effort by Governments, international organizations, non-governmental structures and the private sector.

80. Her delegation welcomed the importance attached in the 2011 UNICEF report "The State of the World's Children: Adolescence — an Age of Opportunity" to investing in support for adolescents so that they could realize their potential. To that end, combating social degradation of youth and early identification of talented youth, both of which were included in the initiative put forward by Belarus at the 2010 United Nations summit for a global partnership on education, could usefully be incorporated in the operational activities of the United Nations system.

81. The recent more active participation of children and youth in giving effect to the rights of the child was a welcome development. Recent experience indicated a need to review the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, update its priorities to include such issues as migration, the financial and economic crisis and trafficking in people, and establish an effective mechanism to coordinate its implementation.

82. Belarusian legislation guaranteed the rights and freedoms of all children, and paid special attention to orphans, children without parental support, children with disabilities and those living in areas affected by the Chernobyl accident. The Government conscientiously fulfilled its obligations under international instruments on the rights of the child, and was currently working to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child following its review in January 2011 of the periodic report of Belarus. It had also invited the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to visit the country.

83. **Mr. Medina** (Peru) said that his country ascribed particular importance to improving the situation of children with disabilities, via implementation of plans and programs to facilitate their complete inclusion. Educational mainstreaming was to be given priority, and a budget line existed to increase the percentages of children with disabilities enrolled in regular primary education.

84. Actions to support the social and human development of children in indigenous communities in rural areas, the High Andes, and the Amazonian regions of Peru, the most disadvantaged population groups, was necessary. Peru had made considerable progress in reduction of chronic malnutrition, child mortality and mother-child health services.

85. Major investment in education had made it possible to achieve universal primary education. The National Mobilization for Literacy Program had eradicated illiteracy in the under-15 population.

86. Peru had been making efforts to integrate information and communication technologies into education in order to improve quality and equity. The "One laptop per child" program was aimed at improving the quality of public primary education in remote, extremely poor rural areas. A "Pedagogical Innovation Classroom" programme was designed to gradually introduce information and communication technologies into the teaching/learning process. The *Cuna Más* programme provided food, early childhood education, and child care for children under three whose mothers were working.

87. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that in June 2011, Pakistan had ratified the Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Work on ratification of the Protocol on Children in

Armed Conflict was at an advanced stage. Periodic reports had been submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been ratified.

88. Pakistan had a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Children and a National Commission for Child Welfare and Development dedicated to promoting implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and assessing the impact of law on the welfare and development of children. Child Welfare and Development Commissions operated at provincial and district levels.

89. A number of national child welfare and protection projects had been undertaken, many of them in partnership with United Nations agencies. The Provincial Governments were undertaking legislative and administrative measures for child welfare and protection in the provinces. Children's Complaint Desks had been established in the Federal and Provincial Ombudsmen's Offices, and a Child Protection Management Information System had been set up in collaboration with UNICEF.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*